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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre

1. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre (ITC) (E/AC.51/2018/8).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with ITC representatives, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the efforts by ITC to implement the recommendations and to increase its effectiveness. At the same time, they expressed concern that not all recommendations had been fully implemented and sought clarification from ITC on the recommendations that remained partially implemented.

4. As regards recommendation 1, which focused on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of ITC action plans formulated in response to the 2014 independent evaluation of ITC, as well as the 2015 OIOS evaluation, clarification was sought on the factors hindering ITC from adapting the structure of its Evaluation Unit to a fully independent unit, and the need to promptly complete the structural change was emphasized.

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5. Regarding recommendation 2, which addressed the need for ITC to adopt a more holistic, data-driven approach to strategic planning and budgeting, a delegation expressed its agreement with the OIOS conclusion that unearmarked resources would better allow ITC to focus on its corporate priorities rather than donor priorities. As regards the new ITC strategic plan 2018–2021, a delegation expressed support for the inclusion of strengthening trade and investment support institutions (para. 17 (c)) as one of the six focus areas, which was of particular importance to developing countries. In that connection, the delegation remarked on the importance of enhancing the inclusion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains. As regards the focus area of inclusive and green trade (para. 17 (e)), the delegation indicated that the term "green trade" had not been agreed in any multilateral forum and suggested that it be replaced with the term "inclusive trade", in line with the agreed terminology of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. Regarding recommendation 3, on revising the project approval protocol, a delegation welcomed the establishment of the new project portal and an online project management tool.

7. As regards the implementation of recommendation 5, on institutionalizing the cross-cutting issues of gender, youth and the environment into projects, a delegation expressed support for the activities of ITC in those areas and welcomed, in particular, the recent efforts of ITC through its "SheTrades" campaign.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of ITC.**

9. **The Committee welcomed the efforts made by ITC to advance the promotion of women, youth and the environment in its projects.**